

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Nevada State Office
P.O. Box 12000
Reno, Nevada 89520-0006

IN REPLY REFER TO:
4750 (NV-930) P

May 15, 2001

EMS TRANSMISSION 5-16-2001
Instruction Memorandum No. NV-2001-041
Expires: 9/30/2002

To: Field Managers, Nevada

From: State Director, Nevada

Subject: Guidelines for Adoption of Wild Horses and Burros During Gather Operations

Trap site adoptions were conducted in Nevada until they were eliminated in 1995. Adoptions at trap sites were identified in Nevada's May 1999, Tactical Plan for the Management of Wild Horses and Burros as a way to increase the numbers adopted within the state and add to nationwide totals. The guidelines listed below will allow Nevada BLM to implement one of the recommendations in the tactical plan and help reach the goals that have been set for the program.

The guidelines listed below are established to define the process for trap site adoptions including freeze marking, administering inoculations, Coggins testing, and providing the public at large the opportunity to participate in these events. Field offices are authorized to adopt animals to qualified adopters during gathers using the following procedures:

1. The responsible field office will make the determination if a trap site adoption is appropriate for a scheduled gather. The field office will inform Nevada State Office (NSO) of the intent to conduct a trap site adoption during a specific gather when the State's annual gather schedule is developed. NSO will incorporate the adoption into the annual adoption plans and obtain funding for the event through the budget process.
2. A news release will be mailed to the various media and interested public mailing list throughout Nevada and neighboring states as appropriate, at least four weeks prior to the scheduled gather where a trap site adoption event is planned. A template news release will be developed by the NSO Communications Office in coordination with the field office wild horse specialists. The release will encourage pre-approval of applications and identify the procedures to be followed to adopt at the trap site.
3. Applications from potential adopters will be submitted to the field office conducting the adoption. Nevada field offices will assist with the review of potential adopter facilities located in their jurisdiction. Coordination with offices outside Nevada will be required to assure adopters and the facilities meet that state's requirements. Final approval of the application will be made by the field office conducting the adoption.

4. The field office conducting the adoption event is responsible for completing the Private Maintenance and Care Agreement and entering the data into WHBIS.
5. Trap site adoptions will be identified in the gather plan, environmental assessment and communications plan for those herd management areas planned for such events. Animals adopted at the trap site will not be shipped to Palomino Valley Corrals (PVC) and funding to cover the costs of holding these animals will not be charged to PVC or to the gather operation. Coggins tests will be required on all animals selected for adoption. Arrangements for the tests and for holding selected animals in separate pens at the trap site will be made by the wild horse and burro specialist at the pre-work meeting with the contractor. If the adoption process is not completed by the time the gather is completed, the local field office will be responsible for making arrangements for holding and care of the animals until the process can be completed. This could require setting up temporary pens. To keep holding cost to a minimum, adopters will be required to take delivery of animals as soon as required health and approval documentation is completed. Adopters shall be informed of practices that will help the animals make the transition from wild to domestic settings, especially with feeding a wild horse or burro newly removed from the range.
6. The field office is responsible for contacting PVC which will assign a freeze mark number to each animal. PVC marking equipment will not be available for use at gather sites; however, NSO will purchase a set of freeze marking tools for use by the field offices and make available upon request. Arrangements need to be made well in advance to assure all needed equipment is available, including liquid nitrogen and vaccines.
7. The field office is responsible for assuring the signalment key, required vaccinations, Coggins test, and freeze marking is completed for all adopted animals.
8. The field manager of the office conducting the adoption, or his designee, shall be notified of all adoptions. The field office conducting the adoption shall notify the field office having jurisdiction for the area where the adopter resides and forward the appropriate documents per manual direction.
9. All requirements for general adoption events are applicable to trap site adoptions, including minimum prices, trailer standards, and adoption reports. BLM employees and contractors conducting the gather/adoption shall not be eligible to adopt at the event. Gelding services will not be available for animals adopted at trap sites.

All animal preparation requirements shall be completed within two weeks of the completion of the gather, except for leppy foals. Leppy foals create special situations and we need to continue to expeditiously find homes for these animals. The adoption procedures for leppy foals, including freeze marking, shall follow the adoption procedures listed above at the appropriate time.

Where a field office is planning to conduct a trap site adoption and can forecast the need for additional help, NSO will be requested to arrange for additional on-site help to ensure a successful adoption event.

Signed By:
Thomas V. Leshendok
Acting State Director, Nevada

Authenticated By:
Debbie Spitale
Staff Assistant